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(71) Applicants (*for all designated States except US*):
PIRELLI & C. S.p.A. [IT/IT]; Via Gaetano Negri, 10,
I-20123 Milano (IT). **TELECOM ITALIA S.p.A.** [IT/IT];
Piazza Degli Affari, 2, I-20123 Milano (IT).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **CATTELLAN, Su-**
sanna, Maria [IT/IT]; Pirelli Labs S.p.A., Viale Sarca,
222, I-20126 Milano (IT). **ROMANO, Andrea** [IT/IT];
Pirelli Labs S.p.A., Viale Sarca, 222, I-20126 Milano (IT).

DE DONNO, Marco [IT/IT]; Pirelli Labs S.p.A., Viale
Sarca, 222, I-20126 Milano (IT). **PIANCIOLO, Aurelio**
[IT/IT]; Pirelli Labs S.p.A., Viale Sarca, 222, I-20126 Mi-
lano (IT).

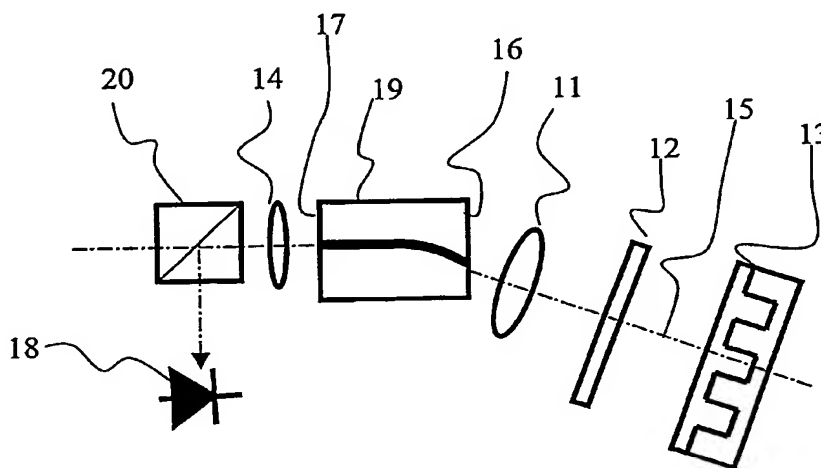
(74) Agents: **GIANNESI, Pier, Giovanni et al.**; Pirelli & C.
S.p.A., Viale Sarca, 222, I-20126 Milano (IT).

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(54) Title: WAVELENGTH CONTROL OF AN EXTERNAL-CAVITY TUNEABLE LASER



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method of controlling an external-cavity tuneable laser that comprises a wave-length-elective tuneable mirror, in which wavelength selectivity is achieved by an electrical signal provided by an alternating voltage. The tuneable mirror of the present invention comprises a liquid crystal material, a diffraction grating and a planar waveguide opti-cally interacting with the grating. The diffraction grating and the waveguide form a resonant structure that reflects only a selected resonance wavelength from among all the other wavelengths impinging thereon. Depending on the amplitude of the voltage applied to the tunable mirror, V_{TM} , the tuneable mirror reflects radiation only at a given wavelength λ_{TM} . The lasing output wavelength of the laser is selected to correspond to the resonance wavelength λ_{TM} of the tuneable mirror. Accurate selection of the emission wavelength (frequency) of the tuneable laser by the tuneable mirror can be derived from the analysis of the signal modulation induced by the AC voltage applied to the tuneable mirror.



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